

## **FIGHTING HUNGER THROUGH FEEDING AMERICA FOOD BANK ANTI-HUNGER INITIATIVES**

### **Congressional Hunger Center and Victory Wholesale Group Select 26 Food Banks for Innovative Anti-Hunger Initiatives.**

Washington, DC – December 1, 2009 - Celebrating outstanding efforts in fighting hunger through food bank anti-hunger initiatives, 26 organizations were awarded Victory Against Hunger Awards by the Congressional Hunger Center (CHC), Victory Wholesale Group, and Feeding America.

“The 2009 VAH winners represent many of the anti-hunger heroes in the Food Bank community. The U.S. Department of Agriculture has recently reported that 49 million people live in households at risk of hunger. Nearly 17 million of this population are children. The lifeline for these families and children in their daily battle against hunger and poverty are these Food Banks and the many other worthy members of the Feeding America network,” stated Ed Cooney, Executive Director of the Congressional Hunger Center.

“Feeding America is honored that this year’s VAH Awards will be supporting the innovative outreach work that food banks nationwide are engaged in to connect families in need with programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (food stamps) and targeted child hunger programs like the Backpack Program and summer meal programs. These programs are essential for families in need, and now there are more families than ever turning to food banks – many for the first time,” said Vicki Escarra, President and Chief Executive Officer of Feeding America.

The annual VAH Awards were established by David Kantor, President of Victory Wholesale Group, to recognize outstanding organizations in the United States that work to end hunger and improve nutrition and health at the local level. The 2009 Victory Against Hunger (VAH) Award’s theme was *Feeding America Food Banks with Innovative Anti-Hunger Initiatives*.

**Congratulations to the following awardees:**

Capital Area Food Bank, DC

Community Food Bank of New Jersey, NJ

East Texas Food Bank, TX

Food Bank for New York City, NY

Food Bank of Central Louisiana, LA

Food Bank of Delaware, DE

Food Bank of Northern Nevada, NV

Food Bank of Southern Tier, NY

Food Bank of the Virginia Peninsula, VA

Greater Chicago Food Depository, IL

Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank, PA

Harvest Hope Food Bank, SC

Los Angeles Regional Food Bank, CA

Montana Food Bank Network, MT

North Texas Food Bank, TX

Northeast Iowa Food Bank, IA

Northern Illinois Food Bank, IL

Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks, OH

Oregon Food Bank, OR

San Antonio Food Bank, TX

Second Harvest Food Bank of Central Florida, FL

Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties, CA

Second Harvest Foodbank of Southern Wisconsin, WI

Tarrant Area Food Bank, TX

Vermont Foodbank, VT

The Worcester County Food Bank, MA

**ABOUT:**

Founded in 1979, Victory Wholesale Group is a wholesale distributor of dry groceries and health and beauty care products. Victory is a national company employing hundreds of people across the country that distributes to wholesalers and retailers across the United States and Puerto Rico.

Established in 1993, CHC's mission is to train and inspire leaders who work to end hunger, and advocate public policies that create a food secure world.

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For additional information about the Congressional Hunger Center, please visit [www.hungercenter.org](http://www.hungercenter.org). For more information on Feeding America, please visit [www.feedingamerica.org](http://www.feedingamerica.org)